



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 2 October 2008

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)
<http://www.dhs.gov/>

- According to the Stephens Washington Bureau, the government on Tuesday issued long-awaited radiation standards for the proposed Yucca Mountain repository, setting a key public health threshold for experts to judge whether the nuclear waste site should be built. (See item [7](#))
- The Associated Press reports that a hacker attacked the University of Indianapolis' computer system and gained access to personal information and Social Security numbers for 11,000 students, faculty, and staff. (See item [36](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#); [Dams](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#); [Information Technology](#); [Communications](#); [Commercial Facilities](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health and Healthcare](#)

Federal and State: [Government Facilities](#); [Emergency Services](#); [National Monuments and Icons](#)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical**: ELEVATED,
Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *October 1, Bloomberg* – (Ohio) **Kinder Morgan oil terminal fire doused in Ohio, radio WLWT says.** Firefighters doused a fire of burning oil at a terminal operated by a unit of Kinder Morgan Energy Partners LP Tuesday morning near Cincinnati, WLWT radio reported, citing a fire department captain. The fire at the Riverside terminal was fueled by flammable cooling oil, and there were no injuries. Workers shut down the oil supply line, and building damage is estimated at \$200,000, the fire captain said, according to WLWT.

Source:

http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601207&sid=af_SuKF93oeo&refer=ener

[gy](#)

2. *September 30, Bakersfield Now* – (California) **County officials want answers on refinery leak.** Kern County Environmental Health officials want answers about the hydrogen gas leak from the Big West Refinery. The leak Sunday was the latest problem at the refinery, and officials specifically want information on how to prevent something like this from happening again. Just three days before, the refinery also had a leak of sulfur gas; officials could not pinpoint that problem. Sunday's problem at the refinery was a compressor that allowed a release of hydrogen gas. "Big West was unable to provide us how much was released, but there was enough to cause a concern about a potential explosion based on the chemical that was known to be released," said the Kern County Environmental Health Department director on Monday. No one was hurt in the Sunday incident. Big West officials could not say if any of the hydrogen gas left the refinery site. But the Big West senior environmental engineer says the company will do a complete review of the incident and send that on to county officials. The hydrogen gas release happened just before noon, the engineer says.
Source: <http://www.bakersfieldnow.com/news/investigations/29950149.html>
3. *September 30, Detroit News* – (Michigan) **Utilities faulted for outages.** The Michigan Public Service Commission has determined that fallen trees, a telephone glitch, and the vastness of the damage were factors that kept more than 700,000 Detroit Edison and Consumers Energy customers without power — some for days — during severe storms between June 6 and 13. Detroit Edison had two problems that may have slowed its response, according to the report. Because an automated customer phone setup malfunctioned — and that problem was not recognized for about a day — the company initially estimated 140,000 customers had lost power. The company then learned the number was actually about 350,000 customers. Crews from other utility companies that normally would assist Detroit Edison crews with repairs were busy with repairs in their own areas. The storms hit a broad region that included parts of Indiana, from which other companies' crews usually could be called in for assistance. Detroit Edison officials said they have fixed the phone problems but acknowledged they initially had been responding on the belief they had 140,000 outages rather than more than double that. The report said Consumers Energy "acted quickly and did everything possible to restore their customers in a timely manner." The commission also said additional tree trimming could have prevented the troubles from being as widespread as they were.
Source: <http://www.detnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080930/METRO/809300321/1409/METRO>
4. *September 29, Associated Press* – (Oklahoma) **Oilfield supervisor killed in blast.** An oilfield supervisor for Weatherford L.P. has died after suffering third-degree burns in a rig explosion in Alex, Oklahoma. Officials say the man suffered burns over 90 percent of his body when a truck left running apparently sparked a natural gas pocket in the field southeast of Chickasha. The Lindsay fire chief says the man went to the truck to shut off the engine when it exploded.
Source: http://www.fox23.com/news/state/story.aspx?content_id=e887c209-7c84-4bfa-

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Chemical Industry Sector

5. *October 1, Environmental Protection* – (National) **EPA to ‘reset’ TSCA Inventory based on chemicals in use.** As part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Chemical Assessment and Management Program, the agency on September 24 announced its intent to update the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Inventory of industrial chemicals by “resetting” it to more accurately reflect the chemicals in commerce. EPA also plans to develop a program to challenge the U.S. chemical industry to provide health and safety information on inorganic high-production volume (HPV) chemicals. Of the more than 83,000 chemicals on the TSCA Inventory, many are no longer manufactured or imported. EPA has already collected information on 2,200 organic HPV chemicals, but not inorganic ones. HPV chemicals account for more than 90 percent of the production volume on the inventory. These new efforts are in addition to EPA’s ongoing work to assess and manage 6,750 high and moderate volume chemicals. To date, EPA has posted assessments on more than 100 high production volume chemicals, which are manufactured or imported above 1 million pounds a year. The agency recently posted assessments on an initial set of moderate volume chemicals — those manufactured or imported between 25,000 and 1 million pounds a year.
Source: <http://www.eponline.com/articles/68022/>
6. *October 1, Bloomberg* – (California) **Shell gets U.S. high court hearing on cleanup suits.** The U.S. Supreme Court will consider putting new limits on claims against companies under the federal Superfund law, agreeing to hear arguments from Shell Oil Co. in a California case. The justices will review a ruling that required Shell to help pay for the cleanup of a California site that once housed an agricultural chemical distribution facility. The court also will hear a related appeal in the case by units of Burlington Northern Santa Fe Corp. and Union Pacific Corp.
Source: http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=a_EP7vblzY AQ&refer=home

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

7. *October 1, Stephens Washington Bureau* – (National) **EPA sets Yucca radiation standards.** The government on Tuesday issued long-awaited radiation standards for the proposed Yucca Mountain repository, setting a key public health threshold for experts to judge whether the nuclear waste site should be built. A regulation issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency purports to set the acceptable levels of radiation that people could receive from the Nevada site up to 1 million years in the future. Now, in order to win a construction license, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) must prove, through complex computer modeling, that the underground tunnel system it wants to

excavate 100 miles northwest of Las Vegas to store spent nuclear fuel can meet the safety requirement. “With the issuance of the EPA standard for Yucca Mountain, the regulatory framework is in place for the nation to move forward to a regulatory decision by the NRC on Yucca Mountain,” said a DOE spokesman.

Source: <http://www.lvrj.com/news/29991329.html>

8. *October 1, Cape Cod Times* – (National) **State appeals ruling on nuclear plant safety.** The Massachusetts attorney general is appealing a decision by the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission about safety issues at nuclear power plants, including the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station in Plymouth. The attorney general’s appeal comes roughly two months after the commission denied a request to consider new information about the risk of severe accidents in spent-fuel storage facilities at nuclear plants. The new information pertains to risks related to terrorist attacks, natural disasters, operator error, and equipment failure, according to the attorney general. The so-called “rulemaking” request was specifically related to applications for a 20-year extension of licenses to operate the Plymouth plant in Massachusetts and the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant in Vermont, but any changes to the relicensing process would affect nuclear plants nationwide. The request would change rules that had taken years to create, said a spokesman for Entergy Nuclear, the owners of the Plymouth and Vermont plants. Those rules have included considerations regarding the potential for terrorist attacks, he said. “Since 9/11 there have been millions of dollars spent on these plants,” he said. “The NRC and Entergy are satisfied that we are in complete compliance with the federal government.”

Source:

<http://www.capecodonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081001/NEWS/810010312/-1/NEWS>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

9. *September 30, Defense News* – (National) **U.S. Coast Guard chooses new patrol boat.** Years after Congress urged the U.S. Coast Guard to speed up its patrol boat replacement program, the service finally picked a design and a shipbuilder for its new cutters. “It’s imperative that we get this program under way,” according to the commandant of the Coast Guard. The \$88 million contract announced September 26 is for the design and construction of the first Sentinel-class patrol boat. The firm fixed-price contract includes six option periods which, if exercised, would add up to 34 new cutters at an ultimate price of \$1.5 billion. The average unit price of the new ships, once the program kicks into production, should be \$45 million to \$50 million said the Coast Guard’s top acquisition official.

Source: <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?i=3750683&c=AME&s=SEA>

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Banking and Finance Sector

10. *October 1, Reuters* – (National) **SEC gives banks more leeway on mark-to-market.** In the new guidance, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) reminded financial services firms that they do not need to use fire sale prices when evaluating their hard to price assets. U.S. accounting rule makers assume that the factors used to come up with fair values are based on an orderly transaction between willing market participants. The SEC document said that “distressed or forced liquidation sales are not orderly transactions.” Under U.S. accounting rules, assets can be valued based on a simple price quote in an active market. But the hardest to value assets are often based entirely on management’s best estimate derived from mathematical models. The SEC’s guidance says that sometimes the level 3 inputs may be more appropriate than the so-called level 2, or observable factors. Others have said that the changes have not gone far enough.
Source:
<http://www.reuters.com/article/ousiv/idUSWAT01020020081001?pageNumber=1&virtualBrandChannel=0>
11. *October 1, Bloomberg* – (National) **Lehman, Bank of America, Huntsmen in court news.** Creditors in Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc.’s bankruptcy case, the biggest ever, urged a judge to reject a loan for the collapsed bank, arguing that proceeds from asset sales are enough to fund its day-to-day operations. A U.S. bankruptcy judge in Manhattan gave interim approval for New York-based Lehman to borrow an initial \$200 million from Barclays Plc. on September 17 and had said he would hold a hearing on whether to approve an additional \$250 million for the debtor-in-possession loan. The creditor panel includes Bank of New York Mellon Corp. and Wilmington Trust Co. as trustees for bondholders owed about \$155 billion which acts on behalf of thousands of Lehman’s unsecured stakeholders. When it sought bankruptcy protection September 15, Lehman listed more than \$613 billion in debt as of May 31, dwarfing WorldCom Inc.’s 2002 bankruptcy, previously the largest.
Source:
<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601100&sid=ao0CLZfQeuHE&refer=germany>
12. *October 1, Bloomberg* – (National) **Lehman, Bank of America, Huntsman in court news; Bank of America, Countrywide sued over data sale.** Bank of America Corp. and its Countrywide Financial unit were sued by consumers who contend their personal data was not adequately protected before a senior analyst obtained the information and sold it. Two mortgage-holders are seeking unspecified damages and class-action, or group, status on behalf of two million people whose personal profiles were compromised, according to the federal lawsuit. A former Countrywide analyst was arrested and charged with exceeding authorized access to a financial institution computer, a U.S. attorney in Los Angeles said on August 1. The analyst faces as long as five years in prison.
Source:
<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601100&sid=ao0CLZfQeuHE&refer=germany>

13. *September 30, Dark Reading* – (National) **Attackers mix online, offline exploits to mask financial fraud.** Professional cybercriminals are deploying multichannel attacks that split the attack cycle into pieces that may not look like they are related. This combination of offline and online activity lets the attacker stay under the radar of forensics or other incident tracking, for instance, using wire transfers and ATM transactions, as well, rather than a pure online transaction with a bank. One example of this type of attack is the Coreflood botnet Trojan, which is notorious for performing reconnaissance on its victims. Coreflood has stolen user account information, Webpage content, digital credentials, and browser cookies. And it made sure the server it used appeared to be from the same geographic location as the victim. Banking customers can protect themselves from these multipronged — and often silent — attacks with the usual best practices: updated antivirus and anti-spyware, patching one's machine, and never clicking on an email purportedly from a financial institution.
Source: http://www.darkreading.com/document.asp?doc_id=164976&WT.svl=news1_2

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Transportation Sector

14. *October 1, Tulsa World* – (Oklahoma) **Airport doing full-body scans.** Tulsa International Airport on Tuesday became the eleventh U.S. airport to activate a new passenger screening technology known as whole-body imaging (WBI). Resembling an octagonal metal-and-glass phone booth, the \$170,000 WBI machine is deployed by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) at Tulsa International's center terminal security checkpoints. The machine is positioned beyond the walk-through metal detectors. "If you go through the metal detector and you cause an alarm, you will be motioned through the WBI," said the TSA assistant federal security director for inspection at Tulsa International Airport. The WBI process, which passengers may decline in favor of physical pat-downs, is designed to augment the metal detectors and baggage screening at security checkpoints, TSA officials said. The WBI screening takes about 10 to 15 seconds, according to a TSA spokeswoman.
Source: http://www.tulsaworld.com/business/article.aspx?articleID=20081001_45_E1_Michael84565
15. *October 1, Washington Post* – (Maryland) **Pilot's request for help on rare approach probed.** Investigators probing the deadly weekend crash of a Maryland State Police medical rescue helicopter are studying a final request the pilot made to an air-traffic controller at Andrews Air Force Base moments before the aircraft disappeared from radar. The pilot, who was among four killed in the crash, asked the controller for help with a rarely used type of instrument approach that would have required the controller to help guide the helicopter close to the ground. According to a source familiar with the investigation, the controller on duty was not certified to perform the procedure, known as a surveillance radar approach.
Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/30/AR2008093002714.html?hpid=sec-metro>

16. *October 1, Associated Press* – (National) **GAO: FAA cannot auction flight slots.** U.S. aviation officials have no legal authority to auction off takeoff and landing slots at airports, a scheme the government devised to try to curb crippling traffic jams at major airports, congressional investigators said Tuesday. The legal opinion from the Government Accountability Office comes amid a legal fight among airlines, airport operators, and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) over the presidential administration's plan to trim flight delays by auctioning off slots at New York City-area airports. The secretary of transportation proposed the auction plan after widespread complaints last year about rampant flight delays across the country. The government says two out of three flights delayed 15 minutes or more were due to cascading backups beginning at one of the New York metropolitan area's three airports: Newark, John F. Kennedy, and LaGuardia.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap_travel/20081001/ap_tr_ge/travel_brief_flight_delays;_ylt=AgbUxbgZMxTNlpI_PuH4kMOs0NUE

17. *September 30, New York Times* – (Illinois) **In Chicago, private firm is to run Midway Airport.** Midway Airport is poised to become the first large privately run hub airport in the country, officials said Tuesday, after an investment group bid \$2.52 billion to win rights to a long-term lease. The deal, with Midway Investment and Development Company, requires final approval from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the Chicago City Council, which is set to vote October 8. Almost all commercial airports in the United States are owned and operated by local or state governments, and Midway is no exception. But Midway is eligible for leasing because the city applied to the FAA to take part in an experimental program begun about 12 years ago to explore privatization as a means to generate capital for improvements.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/01/us/01midway.html>

18. *September 29, New York Times* – (National) **Not too small to appear on a big no-fly watch list.** The Transportation Security Administration said on Monday that it planned to crack down on, and perhaps fine, airlines whose employees erroneously misinform passengers that they are on the terrorist watch list, rather than on an airline list.

Source:

http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/30/business/30road.html?_r=1&adxnnl=1&oref=slogin&adxnnlx=1222893615-03livEz5T4OpieB5NgaT5g

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Postal and Shipping Sector

19. *October 1, Dallas Morning News* – (Texas) **Box of rocks causes evacuation of 700 workers at Dallas mail center.** A suspicious package that led to the evacuation of 700 U.S. postal workers Wednesday morning turned out to be a box of rocks, a Dallas Fire-Rescue spokeswoman said. The incident was reported shortly before 7 a.m. A worker, who was handling a 30-pound box of "concrete-type rocks" that had been cracked open, reported a bit of dust and burning in his throat. The incident was reported during shift change at the facility which led to the evacuation of hundreds of workers. Fire crews

checked the package for radioactivity, flammability, biohazards, and unusual pH levels, but all results came back negative. Two people were evaluated at the scene. No injuries were reported, and everyone returned to work shortly after 8 a.m.

Source:

<http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/localnews/stories/100208dnmetpos-toffice.cd2f6d6d.html>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

20. *October 1, KNEB 960 Scottsbluff* – (National) **Beef Checkoff Modernization Act introduced.** A U.S. senator from Montana has introduced the Beef Checkoff Modernization Act. The bill calls for the amendment of the Beef Act to allow the promotion of beef born and raised exclusively in the U.S. The bill would also allow the establishment of an importers qualified beef council. That council would promote non-domestic beef. Also, the bill would establish new referendum requirements — giving producers more control over the program. The bill directs at least 30 percent of funds derived from beef checkoff assessments be made available for the promotion and marketing of products from U.S. born and raised cattle. And the new importers council would be given certain funds to promote products derived from cattle not born and raised in the U.S. The legislation has the support of the U.S. Cattlemen’s Association.

Source: <http://www.kneb.com/news/agricultural/2306158c-018d-44bb-9334-588b659ca0dc>

21. *September 29, Brownfield* – (National) **Senate revisits, ‘fixes’ farm bill 10-acre rule.** The U.S. Senate Monday passed a ‘fix’ to the 10-acre provision of the 2008 farm bill as well as to the bill’s disaster assistance program. Lawmakers approved a provision requiring that the U.S. Agriculture Department not implement the restriction on base acres totaling less than 10 acres. Senators contend that the agency incorrectly interprets the provision. The Senate resolution deals only with payments for the 2008 crop year and costs \$9 million. The Senate also clarified aspects of the standing disaster assistance program. There is a newly established threshold requiring a minimum physical loss of at least 10 percent of a crop to qualify for payments. That is to avoid farmers qualifying for payments only because of price reductions.

Source: <http://www.brownfieldnetwork.com/gestalt/go.cfm?objectid=B00FBCA7-DEA6-209A-268606D89103842F>

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Water Sector

22. *October 1, Times-Tribune and McClatchy-Tribune* – (Pennsylvania) **Sewer plant problems persist; pretrial hearing set Thursday.** A sewer plant owned by a Wilkes-Barre couple continues to malfunction and discharges waste into nearby waterways west of Tunkhannock. With a pretrial hearing scheduled Thursday in Wyoming County Court for the couple on multiple counts of polluting and disturbing waterways, problems

at WP Sanitary in Washington Park persist and affect development residents. The township in August reported to the state Fish and Boat Commission a “bad smell” near an outflow pipe. Three years ago, the state Department of Environmental Protection began an investigation into the operation of the sewer plant, which serves about 150 people. Violations were subsequently found, and the couple was charged with 40 counts of polluting and disturbing waterways.

Source: <http://www.tradingmarkets.com/.site/news/Stock%20News/1912998/>

23. *September 29, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* – (Massachusetts) **Massachusetts water professionals prepare to address emergency situations.** More than 50 Massachusetts water professionals gathered recently to collaborate and learn more about preparing for emergencies with local drinking water or sewer systems. The workshop and exercise is one of six funded by the Environmental Protection Agency in New England, bringing together representatives from Massachusetts municipal water and wastewater utilities, helping them coordinate on how they can assist each other and work with state and local emergency management agencies to protect public health in the event of an emergency. The collaboration is the basis for the Massachusetts “Water and Wastewater Agency Response Network” (WARN) and offers these entities the ability to join the network — a voluntary, no cost commitment. Key issues include activating plans, how to match requests for assistance with available resources, and how to fine-tune the processes necessary to facilitate prevention of, response to, and recovery from an incident. WARN agreements are key to making sure local utilities get Federal Emergency Management Agency reimbursement if needed in a federally declared disaster. WARN organizations have been formed in over 30 states around the country, with most New England states formed within the past year.

Source: <http://www.wateronline.com/article.mvc/Massachusetts-Water-Professionals-Prepare-0001?VNETCOOKIE=NO>

24. *September 29, Press-Enterprise* – (California) **Bacteria in Norco prison’s water raises concern.** Bacteria in the drinking water at the California Rehabilitation Center in Norco earlier this month has inmates’ families and prison advocates asking for answers. Routine tests showed a violation of drinking-water standards. A member of the prison’s Inmate Family Council said there have been periodic problems with the Norco prison’s water since 2004. Tests of water samples during the first two weeks of September found coliform bacteria, which is not harmful itself but may indicate the presence of more hazardous bacteria such as E. coli. Two of eight samples showed coliform, a violation of the standard that no more than one sample per month may show the bacteria. Subsequent tests have not shown bacteria, but the prison has bottled water for inmates if the water system is found unsafe. In 2004, about 20 inmates were reportedly diagnosed with the bacteria *Helicobacter pylori*, which causes digestive problems such as vomiting and diarrhea. At the time, inmates and their families said they believed water was the source of the bacteria, but the prison’s chief medical officer said tests of the water found nothing.

Source:

http://www.pe.com/localnews/norco/stories/PE_News_Local_W_wwater30.2263f7b.html?npc

Public Health and Healthcare Sector

25. *October 1, Boston Globe* – (Massachusetts) **Mass. gets \$10.6b for healthcare insurance.** At a time when many states are facing substantial cuts in federal financing, Massachusetts will be able to expand its first-in-the-nation healthcare law because of a federal promise of \$10.6 billion over the next three years, the governor said Tuesday. The deal, struck after months of delicate negotiations, gives Massachusetts about \$2.1 billion more than it received from the government in its last round of negotiations three years ago for its Medicaid waiver package. The waiver allows Massachusetts to provide subsidized health insurance to some residents with incomes higher than would typically be allowed under traditional Medicaid rules. While Massachusetts did not get everything it had requested, it did get all of the money it expected to receive for this fiscal year, easing anxiety among state leaders who are grappling with a budget shortfall. Source: http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2008/10/01/mass_gets_106b_for_healthcare_insurance/
26. *September 30, Homeland Security Today* – (National) **CDC awards \$24 million for innovative pandemic preparedness.** As fears continue to grow over the emergence of a pandemic strain of influenza in the near future — mutations of several strains other than H5N1 have given rise to increased worry — a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) program has awarded \$24 million to 29 state and local public health departments to fund 55 projects to come up with innovative approaches for influenza pandemic preparedness, including several preparedness areas of concern that have been raised by numerous public health officials and planners. They include engaging the public in the public health decision-making process and better collaborative planning among healthcare providers to ensure the delivery of essential services during a pandemic. CDC intends for the recipients to implement promising practices or to develop effective approaches and models that can be replicated nationally. Source: <http://hstoday.us/content/view/5390/149/>
27. *September 30, Bloomberg* – (National) **Emergent's anthrax vaccine effective with fewer doses in study.** A shortened course of vaccination with Emergent BioSolutions Inc.'s anthrax vaccine could be just as effective and less painful, researchers said. People who got three shots of Emergent's BioThrax in an arm muscle had the same immune response as those who got four standard injections under the skin, said a U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention scientist, who led the study published Wednesday in the Journal of the American Medical Association. Muscle shots also led to less swelling and redness than skin shots, he said. Emergent is the sole U.S. manufacturer of anthrax vaccine, which the U.S. Department of Defense gives to soldiers who could face a risk of bioterrorist attacks. The vaccine, approved in 1970, was used at first mainly by veterinarians and other workers who came into contact with animal hair, which may contain anthrax spores, according to a 2002 report from the U.S. Institute of Medicine. Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601124&sid=aVi7uxzenRnY&refer=science>

28. *September 30, South Florida Business Journal* – (Florida) **Florida regulators to take control of MD Medicare Choice.** A Leon County Circuit Court judge has ordered MD Medicare Choice (MDMC) placed into receivership for the purpose of liquidation. MDMC, based in a Tampa, offers a Medicare Advantage plan and has more than 16,000 members in 23 Florida counties including Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach. The judge named the Florida Department of Financial Services (DFS) as receiver, effective at 11:59 p.m. Tuesday night, said a release from the state's chief financial officer who oversees the department. DFS will work closely with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and with Humana, which will provide replacement coverage effective Wednesday, the release said. The judge ordered the receivership after reviewing financial records showing that MDMC is financially insolvent and has no cash flow, the release said.

Source: <http://www.bizjournals.com/southflorida/stories/2008/09/29/daily14.html>

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Government Facilities Sector

29. *September 30, Associated Press* – (North Dakota) **Supervisor: Air Force officer stole missile device.** A Minot Air Force Base officer admitted taking an obsolete missile launch control device as a souvenir, saying he thought it would be “a cool thing to have.” The Air Force hearing for the missile combat crew member was to determine whether he will face a court-martial on charges of dereliction of duty, mishandling of classified items, and other counts. The crew member is accused of taking the domino-sized launch control device in July 2005, rather than destroying it as required when it was no longer in use. While the device is obsolete, had the technology been compromised, it could have led to “unintended detonation” of a nuclear missile. Officials said the theft came to light when the crew member was given a lie-detector test in applying for a job with the National Security Agency. The Air Force said the crew member also told officials that another officer had lied in saying he destroyed a launch component. That device remains missing, and the other officer's name has not been released. The Air Force says it is handling the cases separately. As a result of the apparent lapses, procedures for destroying old launch devices were tightened.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/26960668/>

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Emergency Services Sector

30. *September 30, KTUU 2 Anchorage* – (Alaska) **Enhanced 911 tied up in bureaucracy.** For the past two years the Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA) has been debating how to make Enhanced 911 work throughout the state. But now the RCA is being told it did not have the authority to adopt the regulations. The Department of Law said it does not appear the commission has the authority, even though the Legislature asked the

RCA to come up with appropriate standards for the multi-line telephone systems. Tuesday, the RCA decided to pursue a legislative solution to allow the commission's regulations to stand. The RCA is awaiting a Department of Law recommendation on how to pursue the issue.

Source: <http://www.ktuu.com/Global/story.asp?S=9102747>

31. *September 30, WLOX 13 Biloxi* – (Mississippi) **First responders train to protect MS ports from terrorist threats.** Coast first responders completed a refresher course on port security Tuesday. Officials say Intensive Marine Port Area Counter Terrorism, or IMPACT, came about because of the increasing security threats facing our nation's ports. The Department of Marine Resource's marine patrol officers keep constant watch over the Mississippi sound. "If any port authority, security, anything like that sees anything suspicious on the water they can contact us," an official said. The training through IMPACT gave 140 federal, state, and local first responders a better handle on how to prevent and respond to possible terrorist attacks on Mississippi ports. In port counter-terrorism efforts it is especially important because you have overlapping jurisdictions," said a U.S. Attorney's Office official. "You have maritime, you have the land-based jurisdiction, and in addition to that, you have a number of smaller agencies. And the way that we can make this work is in partnership." Emergency workers also got to see what others have in the way of counter-terrorism technology from a device that scans the contents of cargo containers, to what Hazmat teams would use to decontaminate victims of a biological attack.

Source: <http://www.wlox.com/Global/story.asp?S=9100410>

32. *September 30, Honolulu Advertiser* – (Hawaii) **State unveils \$32 million interisland emergency communications system.** The state unveiled a new, interisland microwave communications system Tuesday for first responders aimed at making sure public safety and civil defense officials stay connected during emergencies. The \$32 million system is not yet completed, but currently links first responders from O'ahu to the parts of the Big Island. The system, which was built with the help of the U.S. Coast Guard, and state and county funds, will be finished in 2011, at which point it will connect first responders on all islands.

Source:

<http://www.honoluluadvertiser.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080930/BREAKING01/80930034/-1/LOCALNEWSFRONT>

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Information Technology

33. *October 1, MX Logic* – (New York) **NY tops computer virus threat list.** New Yorkers could be most in need of virus protection in light of new figures showing the city is at highest risk of infection. Research conducted by security software firm PC Tools ranks New York top of the list of most at-risk cities in the U.S., reports NY1. Houston, Los Angeles, Chicago, and Miami also appear in the top five, with the statistics based on the number of attacks suffered by each individual user. Meanwhile, a lack of virus protection was recently identified as one of the top ten vulnerabilities Windows users

could face.

Source: <http://www.mxlogic.com/securitynews/viruses-worms/ny-tops-computer-virus-threat-list682.cfm>

34. *October 1, VNU Net* – (National) **RogueSecurity Trojan dominates September attacks.** The RogueSecurity Trojan and its variants accounted for 61.5 percent of all malware attacks during the month, taking the top four positions in the security firm's malware list. "Not since the start of this year when the notorious Storm virus made a continuous run of devastating attacks has any comparison been seen with this level of activity," said internet security firm Fortinet. "However, where the Rogue security applications excel is the accumulated volume, maintaining these extreme levels of activity for at least six days, not to mention the other variants." The bulk of malware activity occurred in the second and third week of September, with the W32/Inject.GZW!tr.bdr Trojan peaking at nearly two million in the middle of the month.
Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2227219/single-trojan-accounts-per-cent>
35. *September 30, Register* – (National) **Stealthy malware expands rootkit repertoire.** Security researchers have discovered one of the most subtle and sophisticated examples of Windows rootkit software known to date. The AutoRun-NOX worm extends the standard Vxer trick of using software vulnerabilities to infect systems, by including functionality that allows the worm to exploit Windows security bugs to hook into parts of the Windows system that operate below the radar of anti-virus packages. The worm uses a long-standing Windows vulnerability, patched by Microsoft in April 2007, involving a GDI privilege elevation flaw. If the attack using the vulnerability fails, the worm falls back to plan B — using the more common (but less elegant) driver method.
Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2008/09/30/malware_expands_rootkit_repertoire/
36. *September 30, Associated Press* – (Indiana) **Hacker compromises data on 11,000 at U. of Indy.** A hacker attacked the University of Indianapolis' computer system and gained access to personal information and Social Security numbers for 11,000 students, faculty, and staff, the school said. The 4,300-student university's information technology staff and outside computer security experts are investigating the breach, which was discovered September 18 when another institution warned the school. The Federal Bureau of Investigation also was notified. It was not clear whether any data was stolen in the September 8 attack. Investigators believe the attack may have originated outside the United States because a foreign language was found embedded in programming code.
Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-ap-in-college-computerb,0,1712225.story>

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: <http://www.us-cert.gov>.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

Communications Sector

37. *September 30, Associated Press* – (Vermont) **FairPoint outlines Vt. broadband expansion plan.** FairPoint Communications Inc. will provide broadband services to all of its customers in communities served by 51 telephone exchanges across the state by the end of 2010, company officials said Tuesday. The services will be provided in many rural communities as well as more built up areas by using a combination of wired and wireless service hooked up to a major network that a FairPoint engineer compared to an interstate highway. In March, FairPoint took over the landline services from Verizon Communications Inc. in Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. To win approval for the deal from state regulators in Vermont, the company committed itself to increasing customers' access to broadband that provides high-speed Internet access to computer users. In the Vermont deal, FairPoint took over 99 telephone exchanges. The 51 exchanges that will see 100 percent coverage within the next two years are located in all 14 counties. FairPoint officials say similar projects are under way in Maine and New Hampshire.

Source:

<http://money.cnn.com/news/newsfeeds/articles/apwire/fce8b291aad23a65b910a72281409fc2.htm>

38. *September 30, Associated Press* – (New York) **NY regulators get tough on Verizon FiOS installs.** New York regulators have raised the possibility of banning Verizon Communications Inc. from installing its fiber-optic FiOS service in New York City until the company makes sure it is doing enough to provide electrical grounding for its equipment in homes. Poorly grounded equipment or cables could give electrical shocks or start fires, but there have been no reports of FiOS equipment causing harm to people or property, Verizon said. The New York State Public Service Commission, which regulates telecommunications, has been dogging Verizon on the electrical issue since 2006, and the staff concluded in a report to the commission last week that the company's remedies do not go far enough. New York is the only state to have raised these concerns, but Verizon is installing FiOS in 15 others.

Source:

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5j3bbObP4oFUPrDwv6UmOBIdkaoHQD93H905G0>

Commercial Facilities Sector

39. *September 30, Associated Press* – (Illinois) **Man gets 35 years in plot to attack mall.** A 24-year-old convert to Islam has been sentenced to 35 years in prison for plotting to set off hand grenades in a crowded shopping mall during the Christmas season. He was arrested in 2006 on charges of scheming to use weapons of mass destruction at the

Cherryvale Mall in the northern Illinois city of Rockford. The federal judge on the case said Tuesday people could have been severely hurt if federal agents had not broken up the plot.

Source: http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5jptB7e7crfG0v-RpSHEYg_PH5rrgD93H6Q081

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

40. *October 1, Reuters* – (District of Columbia) **Grenade found in Washington park, disarmed.** Several houses in Washington were evacuated on Wednesday after a live grenade was found in a nearby park, a police spokesman said. City and military police were dispatched to disarm the device, which was found around 8 a.m. on a playing field in Rock Creek Park about 4 miles from the White House, a Park Police spokesman said. Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/newsOne/idUSTRE4905GB20081001>
41. *September 30, MSNBC* – (California) **New wildfire burns in Calif.'s Los Padres forest.** A wildfire in the Los Padres National Forest has nearly doubled in size and prompted the evacuation of a few homes in the remote region. The U.S. Forest Service says more than 830 firefighters are battling the blaze that broke out Saturday night in Monterey County, along the California coast about 150 miles south of San Francisco. Aided by hot weather and dense brush, the fire grew from 925 acres Monday morning to more than 1,700 acres by nightfall. It was only 5 percent contained. Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/26955859/>
42. *September 30, National Park Service Digest* – (Texas) **Fuel truck crash causes oil spill in park (Big Thicket National Preserve).** A fuel tanker truck crashed on a highway next to the Big Sandy Unit before dawn on Thursday, September 25, killing the 51-year-old driver. The bulkheads that separated the gasoline from the diesel fuel in the tanker were ruptured in the crash, and just over 3,500 gallons of the mixed fluid poured out of a broken hatch lid and into the park. Source: <http://home.nps.gov/applications/digest/headline.cfm?type=Incidents&id=4212&urlarea=incidents>

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Dams Sector

43. *October 1, Winchester Star* – (Virginia) **Work to plug leak in Lake Cherokee Dam to begin soon.** Lake Cherokee dam is leaking, creating a small stream along Tomahawk Trail and drawing the water level behind the dam to 10 feet lower than its normal level. This summer, the county Board of Supervisors authorized \$500,000 for repairs, and work is set to begin in about two weeks. Officials, who noticed the leak last fall, believe the water is escaping under the dam through fissures in the porous limestone below the man-made lake. To stop the leak, the county government will hire a firm to drill under

the dam and plug the voids in the limestone with grout, sealing in the lake water. Officials are satisfied that the proposed drilling will not threaten the integrity of the dam. The repairs are expected to require 60 days.

Source:

http://www.winchesterstar.com/showarticle_new.php?sID=6&foldername=20081001&file=Shawneeland_article.html

44. *October 1, Stockton Record* – (California) **Governor signs levee bill.** If Delta levees ever collapse from a natural disaster, legislation signed Monday by the California governor is designed to deal with the emergency. Senate Bill 27, by a U.S. senator from California, requires the state Office of Emergency Services to convene a Multi-Hazard Coordination Task Force responsible for emergency response planning in the Delta. The lawmaker said he was motivated to introduce his bill by the Gulf Coast devastation of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. The legislation calls for three steps over the next three years: recommendations creating a unified command system; coordination of a draft emergency preparedness and response strategy; and development of an emergency response exercise that tests existing regional protocols.

Source:

http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081001/A_NEWS/810010329

45. *September 30, WNEP 16 Scranton* – (Pennsylvania) **Dam work begins in Luzerne County.** It has been called one of the worst dams in the state, badly in need of repair. Tuesday work finally began to fix the structure in Luzerne County. The Meadow Run Dam in Bear Creek Township connects Meadow Run Lake to Mountain Lake. For years now it has been on a state list for repair. The Department of Environmental Protection called it a “dam of special concern” because of the possibility the old dam could burst. In all, the repair work will cost \$1.1 million. A government loan pays for most of it. The Meadow Run Mountain Lake Park Association will pay for the rest. Crews said the work should be complete by the end of the year.

Source: http://www.wnep.com/Global/story.asp?S=9102182&nav=menu158_1

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Contact DHS

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at nicc@dhs.gov or (202) 282-9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

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